Controlling Bleeding

Introduction

The leading preventable cause of death on the battlefield is bleeding from an extremity

Introduction

Bleeding from an arm or leg can usually be controlled by:

- Emergency Trauma Dressing
- Manual pressure and elevation
- Tourniquet

Introduction

- In some situations a tourniquet is applied first since other methods will not be adequate to control the bleeding

- In combat, a tourniquet can be applied quickly to control serious bleeding. Once you have time to properly evaluate and treat the casualty, you may want to apply an emergency trauma bandage or pressure dressing and loosen the tourniquet. This will make it more likely that the limb can be saved (not amputated)

Expose the Wound

- Push or cut away loose clothing
- Do not remove clothing that is stuck to the wound
- Check for exit

Expose the Wound

- Do not attempt to clean the wound
- Do not probe the wound in order to remove an object from the wound
- Do not attempt to remov an object impaled in the wound

Apply an Emergency Trauma Bandage

- Also called Israeli bandage / Israeli pressure dressing
- Used on any bleeding wound
- Replaces the field first aid dressing
- Applies continuous pressure to wound
- Use casualty’s bandage first

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Apply an Emergency Trauma Bandage

- Remove bandage from casualty's kit
- Remove bandage from pouch
- Place dressing on the wound
- Wrap elastic bandage around extremity
- Insert elastic bandage completely into the pressure bar

Apply an Emergency Trauma Bandage

- Pull the elastic bandage back over the top of the pressure bar, forcing the bar down onto the pad
- Wrap elastic tightly over the pressure ba
- Wrap elastic around limb so that all edg of the pad are covered
- Secure the hooking end of closing bar into the elastic bandage

Field First Aid Dressing

The field first aid dressing is being replaced by the emergency trauma bandage, however, you still may come across them

Apply a Field First Aid Dressing

- Open plastic packet and remove paper wrapper
- Twist paper packet until it breaks op
- Remove dressing from paper wrappe
- Grasp olive drab tails with both hand
- Hold dressing directly over wound w white side of dressing toward injury
- Pull on tails until dressing opens and flattens

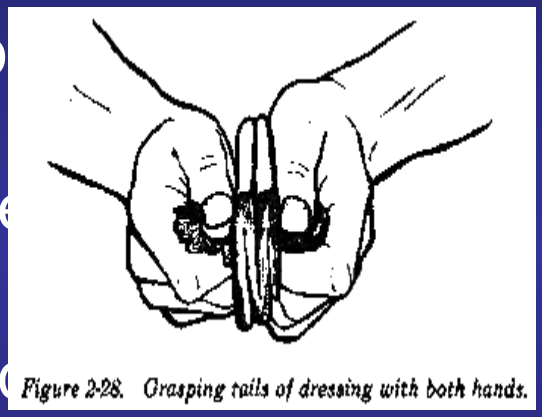


Figure 2-28. Grasping tails of dressing with both hands.

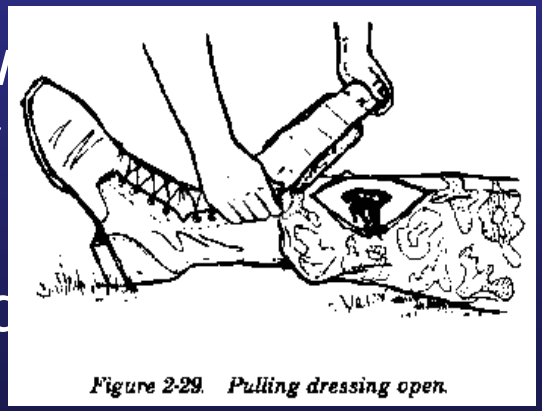


Figure 2-29. Pulling dressing open.

Apply a Field First Aid Dressing

- Place white part of dressing over woun
- Place hand on top of dressing to hold in place
- Wrap tails around limb (opposite direction with free hand, covering the exposed side of the dressing
- Tie tails into a nonslip knot over the outer edge of the dressings
- Check circulation below the bandage

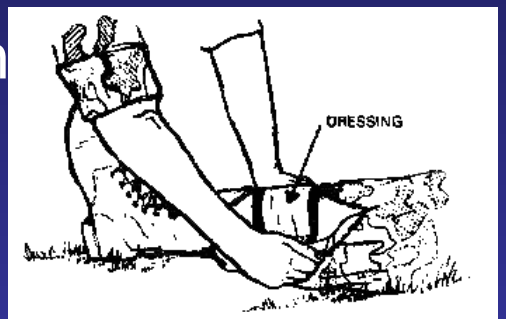


Figure 2-30. Placing dressing directly on wound.

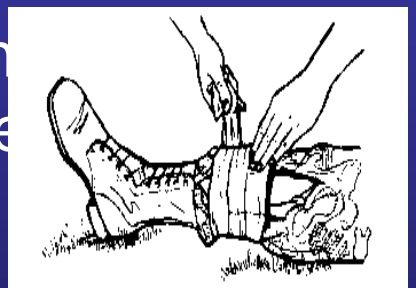


Figure 2-31. Wrapping tail of dressing around injured part.

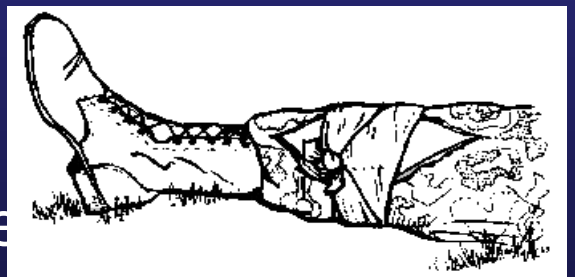


Figure 2-32. Tails tied into nonslip knot.

Apply a Pressure Dressing Over a Field First Aid Dressing

- When blood continues to seep from the field first aid dressing
- Keep the injured extremity elevated while applying the pressure dressing

Apply a Pressure Dressing Over a Field First Aid Dressing

- Place a wad of padding (muslin bandage) on top of the dressing directly over wound

- Place a cravat (folded muslin bandage) over the wad of padding

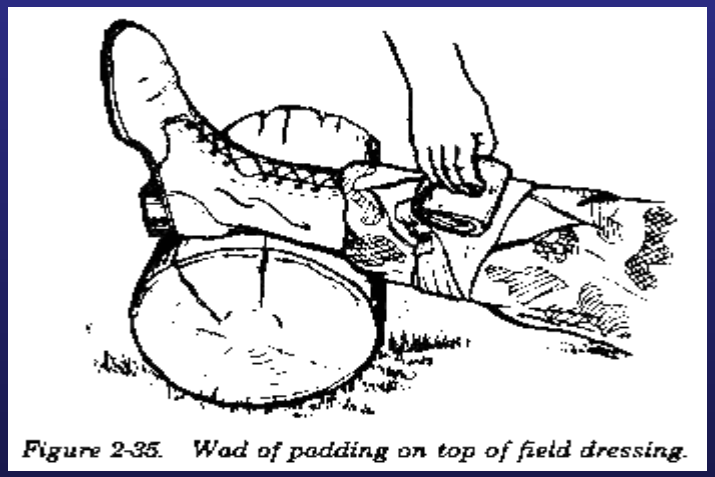


Figure 2-35. Wad of padding on top of field dressing.

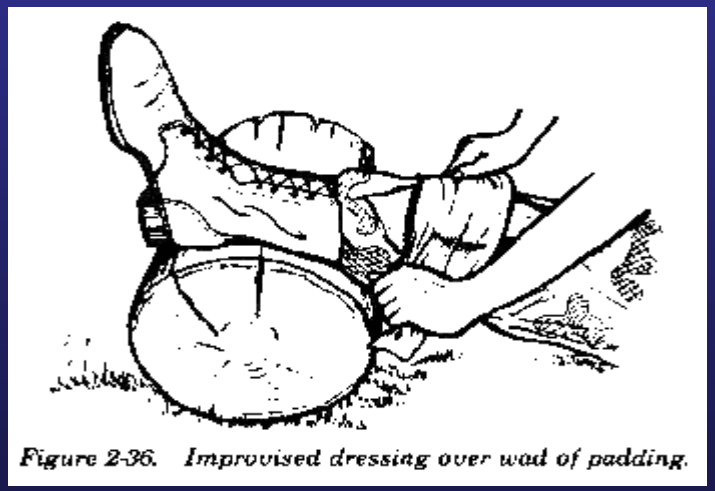


Figure 2-36. Improvised dressing over wad of padding.

Apply a Pressure Dressing Over a Field First Aid Dressing

- Wrap cravat tightly around limb
- Tie ends directly over the wound
- Check circulation distal to injury
- Apply manual pressure
- Elevate the extremity

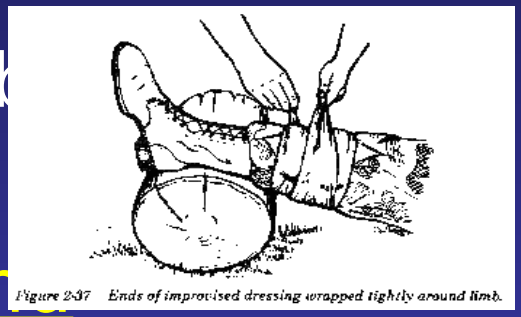


Figure 2-37. Ends of improvised dressing wrapped tightly around limb.

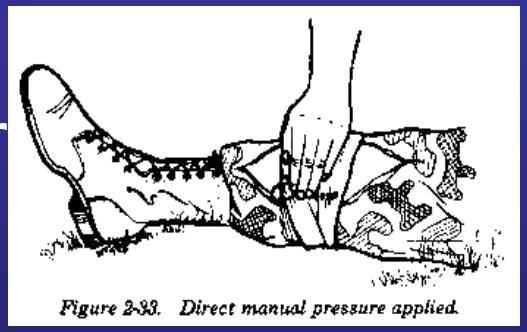


Figure 2-33. Direct manual pressure applied.

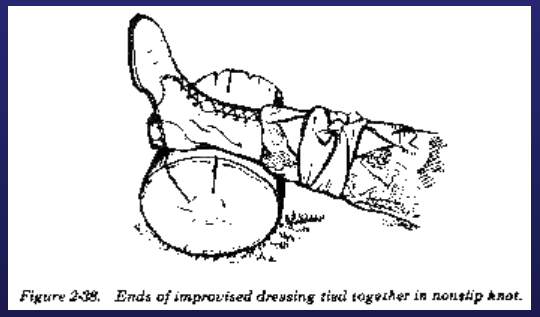


Figure 2-38. Ends of improvised dressing tied together in nonslip knot.

Apply a Chitosan Dressing

Chitosan® Hemostatic Dressing

Chitosan (ki’ to san) Dressing

The Chitosan dressing is used to control serious arterial bleeding

Does not require a bandage to keep in place because it sticks to the wound

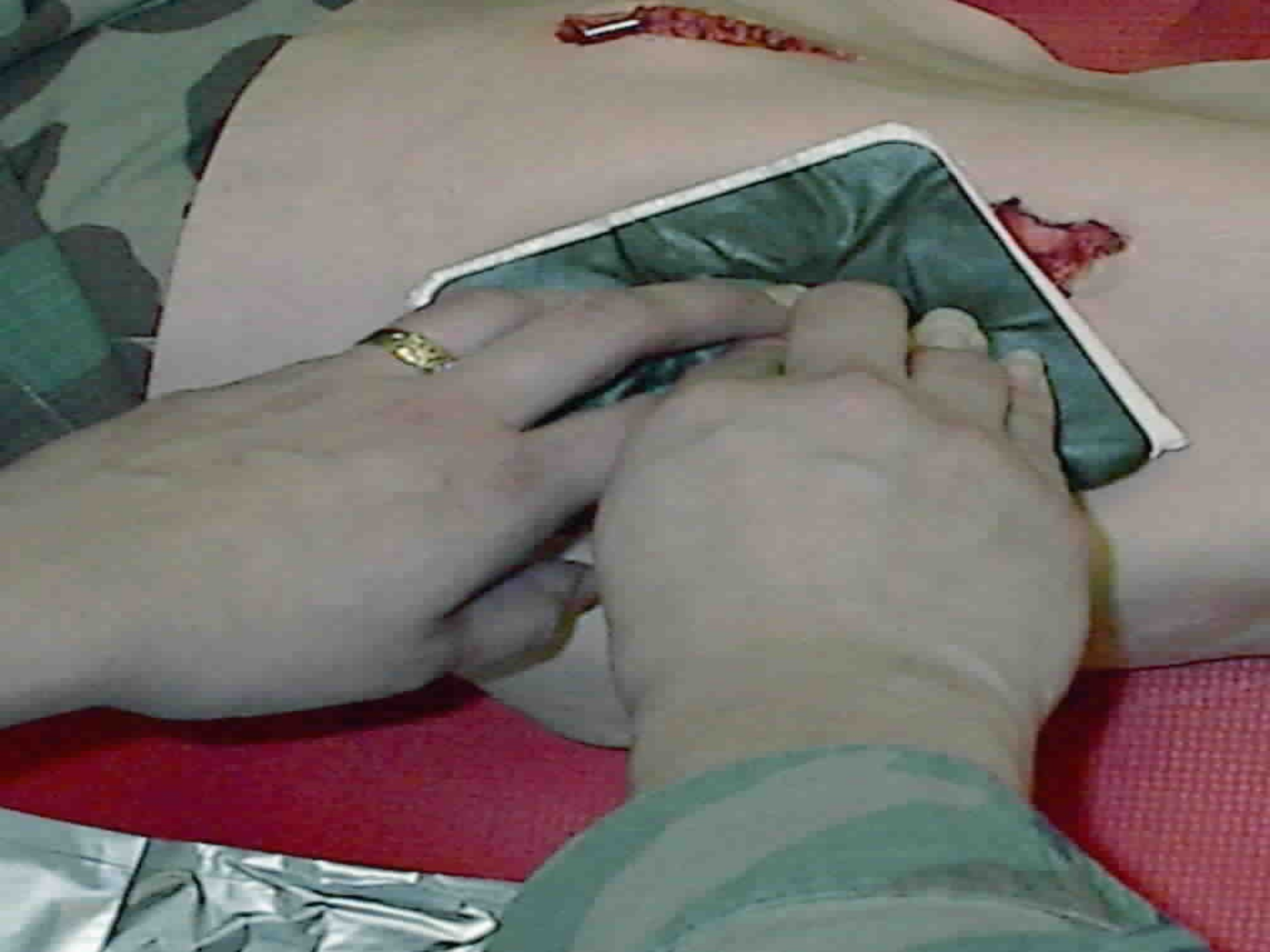
Releases chemicals that “plug” the tears in blood vessels rather than clotting

Hold the foil over-pouch so that the instructions can be read. Identify unsealed edges at the top of the over-pouch

Peel open the over-pouch by pulling the unsealed edges apart. Do Not allow the bandage to fall to the ground

Trap bandage between bottom foil and non-absorbable tan or green polyester backing with your thumb and hand

Hold bandage by the non-absorbable polyester backing and discard the foil over-pouch. Hands must be dry to prevent bandage from sticking to the hands



Apply a Chitosan Dressing

- Apply manual pressure
- A bandage may be applied to the Chitosan dressing to prevent it from being dislodged

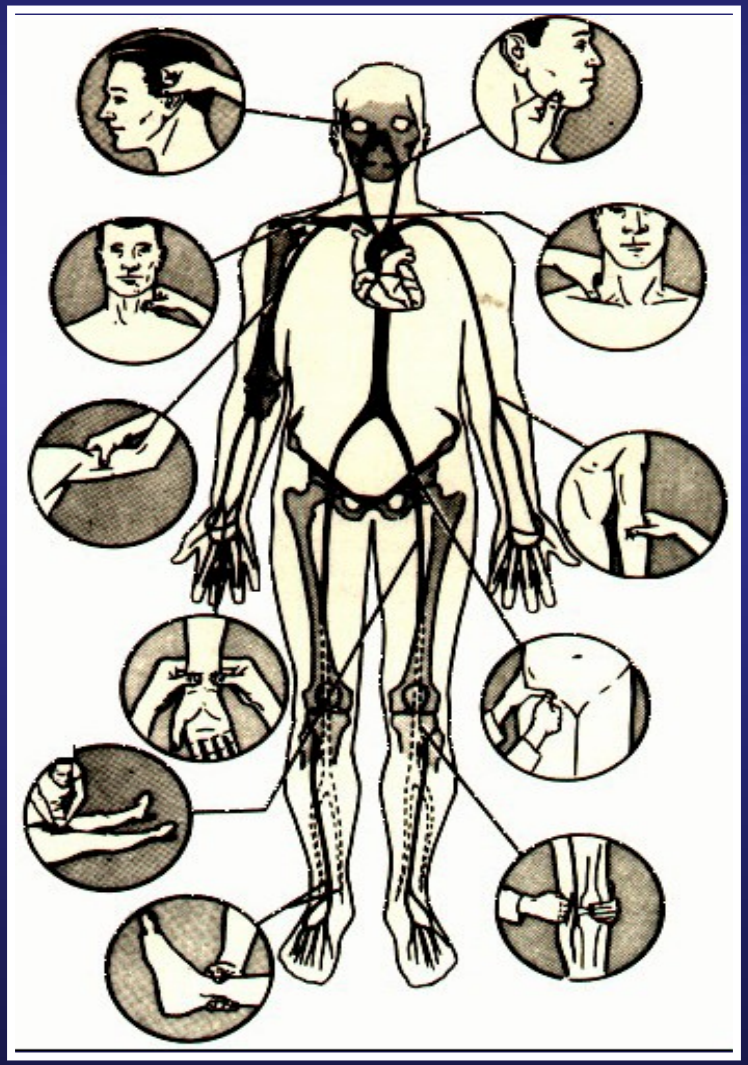
Apply Digital Pressure

- Applying digital pressure to “pressure points” is another method of controlling bleeding

- This method uses pressure from the fingers, thumbs, or the heel of the hand applied to an artery supplying the wound

Apply Digital Pressure

- Temporal
- Carotid
- Brachial
- Radial
- Femoral
- Posterior / Anterior Tibialas



Apply a Tourniquet to Control Bleeding

Tourniquet

- A constricting band placed around an extremity to stop arterial bleeding
- Only used on an arm, forearm,
  thigh, or leg
- Used when there is no time to
  control bleeding
- Used on an amputation of the arm, forearm, thigh, or leg

Applying a Combat Application Tourniquet (CAT)

Applying a Combat Application Tourniquet (CAT)

- Tourniquet of choice
- Applied quickly
- Use the CAT from the soldier’s individual first aid kit

Applying a Combat Application Tourniquet (CAT)

- Remove CAT from pouch

- Slide wounded extremity through loop of Self-Adhering Band

- Position CAT two inches above wound
- Pull free running end of Self-Adhering Band tight and securely fasten it back on itself

- Do not adhere the band past the windlass clip

Applying a Combat Application Tourniquet

- Twist windlass rod until arterial bleeding has stopped
- Lock rod in place with windlass clip
- Secure rod with windlass strap
- Secure Self-Adhering Band under windla strap
- Secure windlass strap to Velcro on windlass clip

Applying a Combat Application Tourniquet (CAT)

- The friction adapter buckle is not necessary for proper CAT application to an arm. However, it must be used as added protection when using two hands to apply the CAT to a leg

Marking the Casualty

Write a “T” and the time of application on the casualty’s forehead with a pen, the casualty’s blood, mud, or other substance

Dressing an Amputation

- Place a dressing (soft / absorbent) over the end of the stump
- Secure the dressing with bandages
- Prevents contamination
- Protects from additional injur

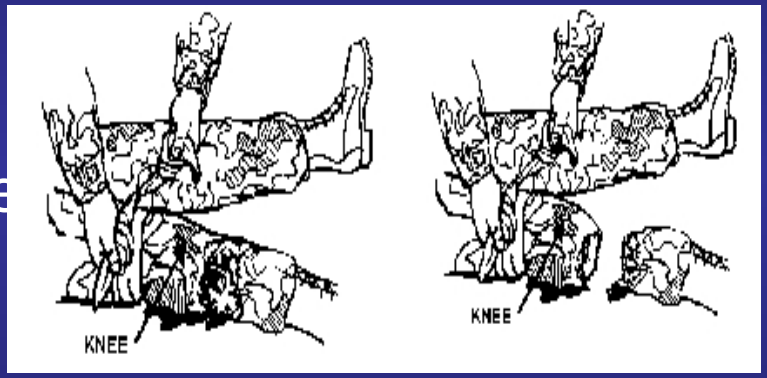
Applying an Improvised Tourniquet

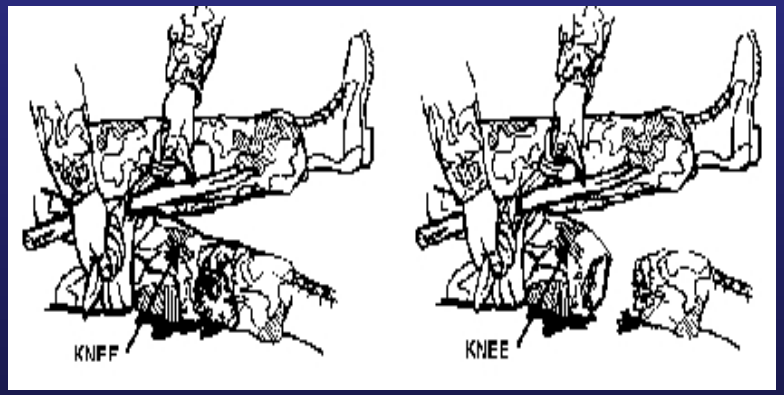
Gather materials:

- Rigid object (windlass) such as a strong stick
- Tourniquet band (cravat) at least two inches wide
- Securing material (cravat)

Applying an Improvised Tourniquet

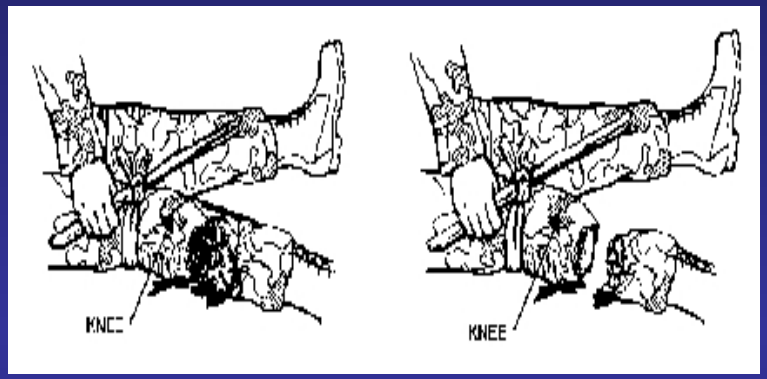
- Select a site two inches above wound / amputation
- Not over a joint or fracture site
- Place band material around site
- Tie band with a half-knot
- Place windlass on top of knot
- Tie a full knot (square knot) over windlass

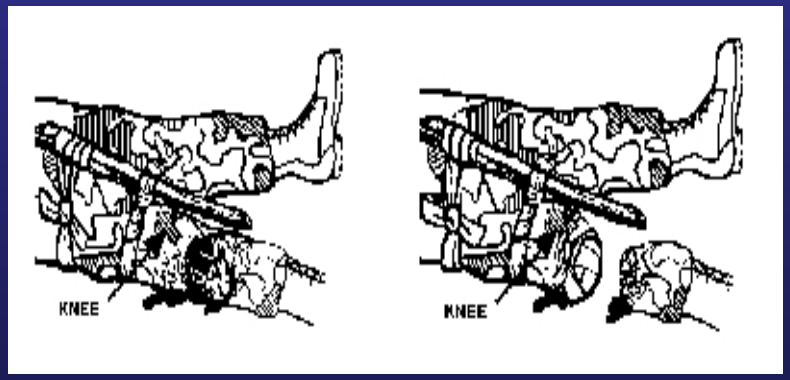




Applying an Improvised Tourniquet

- Twist windlass until bright red bleeding has stopped
- Wrap second cravat around limb
- Wrap tails around end of windlass so the tourniquet will not unwind
- Tie tails in a non-slip knot





The Special Operations Forces Tactical Tournique

QUESTIONS?